# Benny, the Book Agent, Takes a Look In—By Ellis Parker Butler

place had seclusion in plenty. Onfour sides the property was sursounded by hedges which had been for years untrimmed and now stood like green walls, reaching high above the head of any chance observer. The rank, thick hedges cut off all view of road and neighbor and, as if this were not sufficient, here and there on the lawn were masses of shrubbery—lilacs, syringas, and similar leafy. bushes—and these had also grown rank and high, so that even from the openings in the hedge that served as entrances from the lane the house was entirely hidden. The untrimmed grass grew knee high and the gravel

grass grew knee high and the gravel walks were evergrown by weeds.

As Benny Barr came singing out of the gate of Miss Higgin's place a man came hurriedly out of the old Wentworth place. He turned as he came, for an automobile stood at the edge of the lane, and jumped to the seat beside the man at the wheel. The



all were beautiful women and women beautifully gowned. The men were in evening dress. Not a sound! Not a motion of a hand or the movement of an eyelid! Benny drew the portiere aside and entered the dining room. The figures seated at the table were all o' wax! "Well, well, well, folks!" Benny ex-claimed. "How's the party this even-

. . . HE walked the length of the room, looking from one wax figure to the next. The absurdity of it all struck him strongly: it stirred his

tendant the property was not a sound in the entire property it looks to me as if some one might be moving in. The furniture was never taken out, and yesterday and today there were a couple of vans in the yard."

"Won't hurt to try it, anyway," said Benny cheerfully.

All the houses in Dorsey lane were set far back from the road. It was here the town edged the country and homes gave place to large estates. Here one could have seclusion, and any one living in the Wentworth place had seelusion in plenty. On four sides the property was sursounded by hedges which had been for years untrimmed and now stood like green walls, reaching high above. ance of the faces and hands. Even this perfection can be surpassed if the maker is given the opportunity. The motionless figures seated at the table were of the most perfect quality. The women were beautifully gowned, the men neatly clothed. They were well posed. It might have been a group of society men and women petrified just as they had taken their seats at the table. Benny conversed brilliantly. He spoke of base ball, golf, the Castles, the latest musical comedy, asked whether his musical comedy, asked whether hi musical comedy, asked whether his right-hand neighbor would get to Newport this season and whether his left-hand neighbor had attended the races at Belmont Park.

"And by the way, Miss Vandergould." he said, speaking to the figure in the steel blue evening gown, halfway up the table on his left, "I haven't seen you in the nark lately."

Harmon and the state of the sta

"Oh, come now!" said Benny. "Quit it' I know you are alive. It's some sort of a sell, and I butted into it, but I'm willing to be the whole goat if you'll let me go now. Come, have a heart!"

if you'll let me go now. Come, have a heart!"

All the wax figures remained motionless. Benny stared down at his "Miss Vandergould."

"All right. I'll admit you're good at it," he said. "You would fool anybody. I'll admit I thought you were Wax. Susies, or Jane, or whatever your name is, have a heart!"

She made no sign and it must be admitted that Benny was irritated. He pushed "Miss Vandergould's" elbow ever so slightly. Ever so slightly, but it was enough. The wax figure in the steel-blue gown toppled. It—or she—fell sideways against her neighbor and would have fallen to the floor had not Benny put out his hand to catch her. He grasped the same snowy shoulder he had touched before. It was wax; cold, undeniable wax!

Benny straightened the wax figure in the chair and cast one quick glance

Benny straightened the wax figure in the chair and cast one quick glance around the room. There was but one door in addition to that by which he had entered; it evidently led into a butler's pantry and thence to the kitchen. He swung the door on its hinges, leaped through the pantry into the kitchen and stood a moment to get his hearings.



## Bathing Made Painless



THE PLAYER MUST REMAIN IN THE TUB UNTIL HE HAS TURNED THE ENTIRE TWENTY-FIVE PAGES, USING ONLY HIS TOES TO TURN

when they would at the same time be in desertcraft as the "water barrel." playing a game that requires nerve This plant is shaped somewhat like and skill. The game is to fix up a a keg and is about the same size. and skill. The game is to fix up a book rack at the foot of the tub and the years of its growth

playing a game that requires nerve and skill. The game is to fix up a book rack at the foot of the tub and just before you climb in the tub you put a book on the rack like for inst. a book containing 25 views of Atlanta, Ga.

The book is open to Page one and the player must remain in the tub till he has turned the entire 25 pages useing only his toes to turn same. The first few times it will probably take a long wile to say nothing about how it will tickle, but in a wk. or so the player will be able to do the trick in 5 to 6 minutes besides being cleaner than he ever was in his life and able to answer any and all questions that may be asked him in regards to Atlanta. Ga. This player will be able to do the trick in 5 to 6 minutes besides being cleaner than he ever was in his life and able to answer any and all questions that may be asked him in regards to Atlanta. Ga. The player will be able to do the trick in 5 to 6 minutes besides being cleaner than he ever was in his life and able to answer any and all questions that may be asked him in regards to Atlanta. Ga. The player will be able to do the trick in 5 to 6 minutes besides being cleaner than he ever was in his life and able to answer any and all questions of the sum of

people that would take baths because a bath wouldn't be such as bath wouldn't be such a bore if you had a good book to read wile you took it.

But then, of course they's a whole lot of people that don't enjoy reading

them bigger and I wouldn't be surprised if some day we will have tubs roomy enough for a 7 hand poker game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be surprised if some day we will have tubs roomy enough for a 7 hand poker game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game and it will be a whole lot more game than the kind that is played at a table as they won't be noted.

RING W. LARDNER.

Great Neck, Oct. 21.

same faculty of sucking up from the soil every drop of the all too little their tough and leathery leaves and

Of the many varieties perhaps the most remarkable is that member o the family known to those schooled